



## BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS Luke 2:10

FEBRUARY 2026

### Reflections with Your Rector

What a remarkable year it has been at St. Luke's! I hope you have been able to experience the energy and joy of connecting with each other as we seek to follow the way of Christ Jesus. I hope you have been able to experience the touch of God's presence as we pray, worship, learn, and serve together.



This month's newsletter, and my "rector's bit" here, offers some snapshots of 2025 in review. You will find even more in the annual report. But, from my place of serving and guiding this faith community, I have been overjoyed at the ways we come together, pitch in together to make things happen, gather in joyful worship and testimony to our faith, and put ourselves forward to make a difference in our region.

Here are some of St. Luke's significant actions and achievements in 2025!

- ◆ Support to refugees, single parents in need, organizations helping people here and around the world
- ◆ Steady opportunities for spiritual enrichment and growth in bible and books studies, prayer gatherings, and discussion groups
- ◆ Children's Chapel steadily maintained
- ◆ New gathering for young adults (Room 4U)
- ◆ Strengthened relationship of support with NIC, new connections with specific departments
- ◆ Significant renewal and re-ordering of the chancel area in our nave
- ◆ Grant award to support restoration of exterior siding of our historic building
- ◆ Recognition as a historic site
- ◆ Beginning of ambitious gathering and writing of St. Luke's history
- ◆ Initial plans for improvement of entry and courtyard areas, following a generous dedicated gift
- ◆ Continued ministries of prayer, pastoral care, and provision for needs
- ◆ Donation of thousands of dollars' worth in food and personal care to area food banks
- ◆ Public ministry: services, connections, support for the vulnerable, and calls for social responsibility and the common good in many different organizations and networks across this region

See *Rector* (continued on page 2)



### COMING EVENTS

#### FEBRUARY'S REVERSE OFFERING WILL GO TO RATHDRUM FOOD BANK

- February 2—New Diocesan Zoom book study begins
- February 3—Women's Guild, 1 p.m.; Contemplative Prayer on Zoom, 5:30 p.m.
- February 8—Parish Annual Meeting, 11:30 a.m.; Diocesan high school Zoom confirmation class begins
- February 10—Men's Discussion Group, 6 p.m.
- February 13-15—Winter Cross youth retreat, Lazy F Camp, Ellensburg
- February 17—Contemplative Prayer on Zoom, 5:30 p.m.
- February 19—Daughters of the King, 10:30 a.m.; Vestry meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- February 22—Room 4U young adult group, 6:30 p.m.

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*Rector (continued from page 1)*

- ◆ Effective shared leadership and mutual support during my summer sabbatical and vacation time
- ◆ Strengthening of music ministry, including welcoming of Eric Betz as Director of choirs
- ◆ Strengthened pledges for continuing solid ministry together in 2026

Together, St. Luke's did all of this even while I was abroad with Heather for nearly three months, and even while we waited with hope for Rev. Mary Ayers' ability to return to work with us and eventually needed to say farewell to her. And across the year, people continued to keep us going steadily in the day-to-day and week-to-week help with finances and payments, regular building upkeep, supplies for kitchen and bathrooms, preparation and clean-up for Sunday worship, welcoming people and helping new folks find their way, pastoral visits to people who are not able to come to church, watching our budget and investments, bringing together people who help lead our worship service, beautifying our gardens and landscape, distributing food and knitting prayer shawls, and just offering a helping hand where needed.

St. Luke's continues to be a healthy congregation. We are delighted to have new people join us, sad to see some leave, and are eager to have more people discover the beauty and depth of our faith and the ways we seek to follow Jesus. As I look back on our goals for 2025 (which were continuations of our 2024 goals), I am proud of what we have done together.

**Our 2025 goals.** In 2025, we decided to continue some of our key 2024 goals, to grow and strengthen our ministry and structural care in these four key areas: strengthening spiritual life, strengthening relationships inside and outside the church, strengthening shared leadership, and strengthening our buildings. These goals are listed on p. 3 of this newsletter, along with my sense of how we did in each and what are some examples of what we did. How do you think we did with pursuing and achieving these goals last year?

What would you like to see happen at St. Luke's and through St. Luke's in 2026?

What do you hope we can strengthen? Where do you hope to see us grow?

Who do you hope we can reach with God's unbounded love in 2026?

How would you like to offer yourself in service and leadership at and through St. Luke's?

You've heard me say it before – it takes a village. We are Christ's body, together. No matter what your age or experience, everyone plays a part in this body of Christ that we share and offer to the world around us. May the Holy Spirit freshly fill and energize us, so we can follow Jesus in his purpose:

*to bring good news to the poor ... to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Luke 4:18-19)*

You are named, claimed, embraced, and called by God. You are called to a deep unity in the Spirit that holds us all with followers of Jesus across the world. You share with us in God's wide-reaching care and love for the whole world. You are made to be light, as part of the great light of Christ.

God's love truly is unbounded. Let us trust in this, and share and show it with others boldly across this year.

See you at our upcoming Annual Meeting on February 8!

*Fr. David*

### Diocesan Prayer for 2026

*(This prayer can be sung or said, and is designed to be sung to Hymn 25 as desired.)*

O Holy One of steadfast love, the fount of hope in whom we trust; Draw near to us in our laments and bind our broken heartedness. God, you alone our song and source, sustainer of our very breath; In every chorus teach your way: do justice, mercy, humbleness. Our melody we lift to you, Creator of the sea and sky; Sing glory, laud, and praise utmost, to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Key Goals	2025 Outcomes	Examples
<b>Strengthening spiritual life</b>		
Commit to growing more in faith through scripture study, prayer, conversation, and service.	Moderately Strong	Book studies, prayer gatherings, discussion groups. 40+ participants
Launch learning and service programs for children and families, beginning with Bible.	Partial	Children's Chapel teaching. Family "meet & eat." Holiday celebration & learning events. Desire for more family events, gatherings, outings.
<b>Strengthening relationships inside and outside the church</b>		
Practice deeper listening and holy, courageous conversation with each other.	Strong, getting stronger	"From Many, One" conversations. Reading Guzman's book, practicing.
Build relationships with NIC staff, faculty, and students.	Strong next steps, solid start	"Building Bridges" team's contacts & conversations. NIC appreciation Oktoberfest, Christmas Carols service: church members connecting with NIC folks. 30+ fresh contacts, 4 partnerships with campus groups & departments. More relationship builders needed.
Follow up directly and personally with every person who visits.	Solid start	Welcoming Committee & rector. More next-level follow-up needed.
Talk with and invite people who are seeking a healthy faith and recovery from difficult experiences in other churches.	Beginnings	Members posting about St. Luke's in social media. Members talking with and inviting people. More needed.
<b>Strengthening shared leadership</b>		
Shared planning and leadership across groups for events and programs.	Strong	Snowflake Faire, Oktoberfest, Christmas Carols service, a few dinners & potlucks/picnics, funeral receptions. Put these skills into play for other public gatherings.
Develop and anchor three enduring	Developing	Connections with NIC, Chamber of
<b>Strengthening our buildings</b>		
Secure, beautify, and open up spaces in the church buildings.	Strong	Chancel area. Doors.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

The newsletter contains articles of interest to members and friends of the congregation of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The Newsletter Editor (alone or in cooperation with the Communications Ministry team) reserves the right to set submission deadlines, edit material for length or grammatical, punctuation or spelling errors, and decline material that is not in keeping with this policy. Every effort will be made to be inclusive. Any member is invited to submit story material directly to the Newsletter Editor at [kfd819@gmail.com](mailto:kfd819@gmail.com).

**DEADLINES:** Newsletter – 10<sup>th</sup> of each month to Kate Dolan—[kfd819@gmail.com](mailto:kfd819@gmail.com); Sunday bulletin & Friday Memo – Tuesdays by noon to parish office—[office@stlukesceda.org](mailto:office@stlukesceda.org).

# Prayer & Worship

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Martha Vilandr�	18 The Rev. Dr. David Gortner
3 Kennedy Wilson	20 Lynn Oxner
9 Reese Johnson	22 Emma McAlpine
12 DeDe Pederson	24 Nan Palmer
14 Pat Lund	25 Ern Warner
18 John Empsall	26 Charlotte Hennig



*If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or does not appear, please notify the office so it can be corrected or added to the parish records.*

## PRAYERS

**Healing and Strength:** John McTear, Milli Larsen, Peggy Lembeck, Beverly Merriman, Sean Whelan, Julian Wheeler, Andre Smith, Bob Gustafson, Don Werst, Peggy O'Neal, Jo Clifford, Joy Crupper, Barbara Webb, Martha Vilandr , Carl Vanslyke, April Miller, Scott Campbell, Henry Lane, Eric Cooper, Gretchen Rehberg, Dan Ayers, Shawn Manuola, Martha & Bob West, Summer Taylor, Barbara Lee, Jane Gortner, Kelly Campbell, Sergio Alvia, Barbara Campbell, Kirsten Pomerantz, Bill Kral, Ginger & Ken Wright, Wayne, Mike Schuller, Phyllis Albee, Mary Ayers, John Empsall, Christopher Wigley, Carol Owren, David Brooks, Dave Ziegler, Ted Jordan, Jill Kalberg, Jamie Ziegler, Kay Lockhart, Cary Miller, Mary Kay Hanson

## DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

### February 1: **St. Timothy's, Yakima**

We pray for the mission and ministry of St. Timothy's, Yakima. We also pray for the Clergy Retreat (February 5-8). We give thanks for the variety of gifts within our Diocesan Clergy. Pray that the Clergy retreat is a time of refreshment and renewal. We also give thanks for the birthdays of The Revs. Kristi Philip (2/2) and Jeremy Armstrong (2/4).



### February 8: **Episcopal Relief & Development**

We pray that Episcopal Relief & Development may have resources to respond to the pain of the world. We also give thanks for the birthday of The Rev. Ethan Bergman (2/3).

### February 15: **Youth and Children's Ministry**

We are blessed by the faith and ministry of the Diocese's Youth and Children's Ministry and we pray for their continued growth and witness to Jesus Christ within our community. We also give thanks for the birthdays of The Revs. Ellen Loposer (2/10), Vicki Johnson (2/10) and Dwight Brown (2/12).

### February 22: **Diocesan Council**

We give thanks for the clergy and lay members of our Diocesan Council who give of their time and ministry in service to the diocese. We also give thanks for the birthdays of The Revs. David Gortner (2/18), Marjorie Stanley (2/20) and Steven Woolley (2/24).

**World Council of Churches' ecumenical prayer cycle:** <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle>

**Worldwide Anglican Church prayer cycle:** [https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/497162/acp\\_from-aba-to-divine-hope-via-zululand-2023-to-2026\\_webpdf.pdf](https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/497162/acp_from-aba-to-divine-hope-via-zululand-2023-to-2026_webpdf.pdf)

# Prayer & Worship

## Weekday Worship Opportunities

**Contemplative Prayer Service:** This service is offered on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m. by Zoom only.

### Wednesdays

- **Noonday Intercessory Prayer** — The service, found on page 103 of the Book of Common Prayer, is offered weekly in the nave and on Zoom. A brown bag lunch and open conversation follows.
- **Praise with Movement** — Offered weekly at 2 p.m. Direct questions to Lyndi Phifer at [lyndiphifer@icloud.com](mailto:lyndiphifer@icloud.com). All ages welcome.



<https://www.funbirmingham.org/midweek-prayer-on->

# Adult Formation

## New Learning and Growth Ideas?



We've had several good years of rich learning, study and spiritual growth at St. Luke's. How would we like to continue growing and learning? Do you have ideas or longings for topics to explore and learn, scriptures to study, ways to grow in our relationships with God? Please share your ideas with Fr. David ([priest@stlukescd.org](mailto:priest@stlukescd.org))! Watch the Friday Memo email for details and updates about formation offerings.

## Sources for Spiritual Growth and Reflection

This is the last installment of our sources for spiritual growth and reflection. All of our information is housed on our website at <https://www.stlukescd.org/life-together/education-spiritual-formation/sources-for-spiritual-growth-and-reflection/>. Here you'll find a wide selection of books, websites and apps you can use to help you experience a little dedicated time with God. These offerings are divided into sections for Daily Office/Devotions, Scripture Reading, Prayer and Meditation, Spiritual Formation, and Spiritual Practices/Disciplines.

Our final offering is to investigate the practices of Benedictine Spirituality. There are many books you could explore to learn more about the Benedictine Rule of Life. One source might be Paraclete Press: <https://paracletepress.com/collections/benedictine-spirituality>. Another is Liturgical Press: <https://litpress.org/Category/B/Benedictine-Spirituality?srsltid=AfmBOopfor9kYJfaqmil7YEty8YshTRLhBjZFvOsUTW1ES6aeQuStRm3>.

At any time, please share what you may be using. Send Kristin Keyes ([kkeyes@gmail.com](mailto:kkeyes@gmail.com)) a note with to tools you use, and we'll add to our growing list.

*Your Building Bridges: Healing Divides Team*

*Kristin Keyes, Lyndi Phifer, Dave Phifer, The Rev. David Owren, and The Rev. David Gortner*

## Room 4U Young Adult Group

**Second & Fourth Sundays, 6:30-8 p.m. — NO MEETING FEBRUARY 8**

Room 4U is a new group for young adults aged 18-25 who are seeking connection, meaningful discussion about the big questions in life, and some light spiritual contemplative activities. It is a safe group where all are welcome. Room 4U meets on the second and fourth Sunday evenings of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Alison Library.



Young people are encouraged to come enjoy a hot beverage, great fellowship and spiritual encouragement. Bring a friend! Contact Rachel Karns ([rachelkarns@gmail.com](mailto:rachelkarns@gmail.com)) for more information.



# Adult Formation

## Recommended Readings for the Whole Congregation

Fr. David is asking us to read together these books over the course of this program year, as we continue to build our strengths and habits for courageous and caring conversations as followers of Jesus.

***I Never Thought of it That Way*** by Monica Guzman – “Learn how to bring curiosity and courage to even the most difficult conversations across America’s polarized political divide with these actionable tools for navigating challenging disagreements.” We will join NIC in their community-wide reading of this book.

***How We Learn to Be Brave*** by Bp. Mariann Budde – “Bishop Budde explores the full range of decisive moments, from the most visible and dramatic (the decision to go), to the internal and personal (the decision to stay), to brave choices made with an eye toward the future (the decision to start), those born of suffering (the decision to accept that which we did not choose), and those that come unexpectedly (the decision to step up to the plate).”

***Transforming Evangelism*** by Fr. David – Episcopalians’ hands-off approach has led to a crisis of evangelism across our culture and with our own children. “How can Episcopalians reclaim evangelism primarily as an enriching spiritual practice?” How shall we practice evangelism in today’s multicultural but fractured society? Fr. David provides spiritual and conversational practices that set healthy habits for respectful evangelism.

***We the Fallen People*** by Robert Tracy McKenzie – “The success and survival of American democracy have never been guaranteed. What we must do, argues the author, is take an unflinching look at the very nature of democracy — its strengths and weaknesses, what it can promise, and where it overreaches. And this means we must take an unflinching look at ourselves. McKenzie, following C. S. Lewis, claims there are only two reasons to believe in majority rule: because we have confidence in human nature — or because we don’t. The Founders subscribed to [biblical and philosophical ideas] that humans are fallen and their virtue is always doubtful, and they wrote the U.S. Constitution to frame a republic intended to handle our weaknesses.”

***The Bible*** — Fr. David recommends reading these books of the Bible this year

- ♦ The Acts of the Apostles— the great adventure of the birth and growth of the Church
- ♦ The Book of Proverbs— a collection of wisdom and guidance, good for our times
- ♦ The Gospels of Luke and Matthew— we are finishing Luke and beginning Matthew.
- ♦ The Book of Genesis— the starting point of all Abrahamic faiths.

All church groups and households are encouraged to pick a book at a time to read, but to begin if possible with ***I Never Thought of It That Way***. This book is now the selection of the Wednesday 4 p.m. book group.

# Youth Formation

## Confirmation Preparation for Kids in Grades 5-9



Parents, if you have kids in 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, they are old enough to begin the process toward confirmation. Here at St. Luke’s, we want all who are confirmed to begin with a good reading knowledge of the Bible, so we begin by walking through the Bible together. The Bible is this amazing, complex collection of books that covers thousands of years of human experience of God. In the Episcopal Church, we rely deeply on the Bible. We learn many of the stories in it, but how many of us have read the Bible and know “the path of God’s love all the way from the beginning to the end, from Adam’s creation to John’s revelation?”

Fr. David will offer afternoon meeting times with young people ready to read and learn the Bible together. Please contact him directly ([priest@stlukescd.org](mailto:priest@stlukescd.org)) or sign up at church! We will determine a good meeting time together.

# Youth Formation

## High School Youth Confirmation Class on Zoom, February 8 through April 19

On Sunday evenings from February 8 through April 19 from 7–8:30 p.m. high schoolers will journey through Confirmation in the Episcopal Church — encouraging and inviting our youth to ask the hard questions and grapple with their own understanding of what they believe and why. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian? Facilitated small group break-outs will provide time for conversation with peers of the same age. Meetings will be virtual via Zoom. Over the course of this 10-week class, we'll be joined by clergy, lay leaders, and faith formation staff from across the Diocese who will lead the lessons and conversations.



Confirmation is one of the sacraments in the Episcopal Church. Confirmation gives us the opportunity to learn about and then avow our faith, more fully comprehending the teachings and beliefs of the Episcopal tradition. It serves as a formal recognition of belonging and connection to this faith community. Register at: <https://campcross.campbrainregistration.com/?>.

## Winter Cross Weekend for Youth in Grades 6-12 Friday-Sunday, February 13-15, at Lazy F Camp, Ellensburg, WA



Join the Camp Cross team as they head to Ellensburg for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and quality time with friends. Attendees will worship, play games, talk about Jesus, hopefully play in the snow (weather-permitting), and sing songs around the campfire. Winter Cross is a great opportunity to hit the pause button, take a little break, and enjoy a safe and affirming environment with like-minded youth from around the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane.

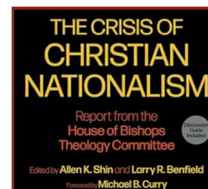
Registration is open now at <https://campcross.campbrainregistration.com/Landing>. The cost is \$150/participant. Call the church office (208-664-5533) to inquire whether financial assistance is available. Questions? Contact Alex Flanagan, Canon for Youth & Family Ministries (425-577-1217).

# Learning Opportunities

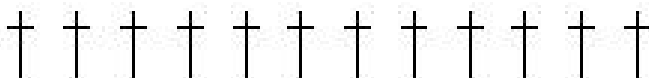
## New Diocesan Weekly Discussion Group: “The Crisis of Christian Nationalism” Mondays in February on Zoom, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

You're invited to be part of a thoughtful and timely discussion series on The Crisis of Christian Nationalism. This Zoom-based book group will meet each Monday evening in February from 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Together, we'll explore the report's themes, reflect on its implications for faith and community, and create space for open, grounded conversation. All are welcome—whether you've read ahead or are just diving in.

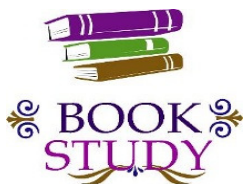


Reach out to The Rev. Rick Matters ([rickmatters@gmail.com](mailto:rickmatters@gmail.com)) to receive the Zoom link and reading schedule!



# Learning Opportunities

## Book Studies at St. Luke's



**Wednesday afternoons at 1 p.m.:** The group will reconvene weekly meetings on January 7. The new book is *Jesus & Buddha, Friends in Conversation* by Paul Knitter and Roger Haight. The authors “explore how a conversation between Christians and Buddhists can clarify and support a spirituality that is experientially real (mystical) as well as socially engaged (prophetic). From basic questions about Buddha and Jesus who were they? What did they teach? Paul Knitter and Roger Haight explore Buddhist and Christian notions about ultimate reality, human nature, spiritual practice, and the question of work for peace and social transformation.” All are welcome to join. Contact Lyndi Phifer ([lyndiphifer@icloud.com](mailto:lyndiphifer@icloud.com)) or Ern Warner ([ern.m.warner@gmail.com](mailto:ern.m.warner@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Wednesday afternoons at 4 p.m.:** The group will reconvene weekly meetings on January 7. The group will be reading *Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times* by Monica Guzmán. There are some copies of the book available. All are welcome! Contact Lisa Nunlist (208-640-9110 or [lisanunlist@gmail.com](mailto:lisanunlist@gmail.com)) for more information.

If you are interested in being part of these book studies, sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

# Life Together

## Vestry Highlights

### DECEMBER 2025

- Approved the rollover of the Designated Columbarium Fund into the Memorial Fund.
- Approved Fr. David's housing allowance.



**Good Stewards:** David St. Amand for his work on the chancel area and electrical issues, performed “in very good spirits”; Kate Dolan for organizing the Many C's of Christmas.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 19, at 5:30 p.m. in the Alison Library. All are welcome to attend.

## St. Luke's Is Hiring!



St. Luke's seeks a Minister for Christian Formation and Discipleship (MCFD). This partner in ministry will be a catalyst, convener, energizer, collaborative direction-setter, and trainer for Christian formation and discipleship for all ages, with primary focus on children, youth, and families.

Visit our website at <https://www.stlukescd.org/> to read the job description and for information on how to apply.

## Women's Guild Meets Tuesday, February 3, at 1 p.m.

Women's Guild will meet next on Tuesday, February 3, at 1 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All ladies of St. Luke's are welcome to attend. If you have questions or need a ride to meetings, please contact Andrea Partington (208-755-1829).

At its January meeting, the Women's Guild met and identified some places for outreach. We have decided to move the Snowflake Faire to November 14, 2026, and hope to collect Treasure Trove items a couple of times throughout the year.



# Life Together

## Building Bridges: Healing Divides Update



While our work with our Diocese on our Building Bridges: Healing Divides initiative is coming to an end, our efforts at St. Luke's in our community and especially our partnerships with North Idaho College grow ever stronger.

It has been an exciting two-year journey learning from the BB: HD initiative to help us as a congregation grow our muscles by practicing meaningful courageous conversation, engaging in partnership with our colleagues at NIC, and experiencing new ways to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

The last part of our work was a three-part ministry experiment to help us grow our partnership with NIC. We held events to meet different contingencies from the campus to offer our friendship, support and partnership. Our first event, Oktoberfest with the incomparable Max Mendez and Beer Choir, was widely attended by our congregation and friends, and about 15 folks from NIC. We made excellent contacts, especially with The Center for New Directions and the music department. Our continued efforts with campus visits and interactions will continue to open doors for us as a congregation.

Our next event, the Christmas Carols and Readings service in early December, saw more than 50 people attend from St. Luke's, the neighborhood and the NIC community. Three NIC students helped to lead us in carol singing with harp, guitar and electric guitar. Fr. David accompanied us on the piano and Julia Hossack on violin. There were plenty of Christmas treats and cider for all to enjoy after the service. This even opens the door for further music partnership as NIC rebuilds its music program.

Our final event, held in late January, brought together St. Luke's and clients of NIC's Center for New Directions (CND), which assists single parents and displaced homemakers with community resources and exploration of career and educational paths. The Parish Hall, reception area and Alison Library were hopping with about 70 people to play games and enjoy a picnic lunch. Twenty-two families from CND came with many children and about 25 St. Luke's members were on hand to show appreciation and love. Each family received one or two bonding opportunities, which included sessions at Triple Play, Suset Bowling, Regal Cinemas and Cascadia Pizza. It was a great introduction, and we hope that this leads to more opportunities where we might be a resource to help when the need arises.

As we come to the end of our two-year partnership with the BB: HD initiative, our work continues. We are now engaging with the NIC Community in their book group and jointly reading *I Never Thought of It That Way, How to Have Fearlessly Courageous Conversations in Difficult Times*, by Monica Guzmán. More details on that partnership will be forthcoming.

We'll continue to offer support and partnership with The Center for New Directions and hope to continue to develop relationships with faculty and staff for more joint ventures.

We as a congregation continue to grow our spiritual lives and continue to offer Christ's endless love to our congregation and community. One outcome of this growth is the addition of a new group for young adults called Room 4U, a bi-monthly safe space for young adults to explore the big questions in life and participate in spiritual encouragement. And members of the congregation continue to step up and offer programs and Children's Chapel for our youngest members, while we search for a new Minister of Christian Formation and Discipleship.

It is a great joy to be walking in partnership with you as disciples of Christ.

*Your Building Bridges: Healing Divides Team*

*Kristin Keyes, Lyndi Phifer, Dave Phifer, The Rev. David Owren, and The Rev. David Gortner*

# Life Together

## St. Mary's Altar Guild

Our passion statement:  
Quietly serving Christ while caring for the beauty of the Sanctuary.

The Altar Guild needs additional assistance for 8 a.m. services. Help is on a rotating monthly basis and training is provided. Interested in helping? Please contact Debbie Lane (208-691-7428).

In love and service,

*Debbie Lane & Annette Knapp, Co-Directresses*



## Men's Discussion Group Meets Tuesday, February 10



Join the Men's Discussion Group Tuesday, February 10, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Our guiding thought is "Be still and know that I am God." It's an evening of relaxing Christian camaraderie and positive conversation. A light supper is served. Please RSVP to Ian Hicks for catering purposes.

Contact Dave Phifer (425-387-2882 or [n801dp@gmail.com](mailto:n801dp@gmail.com)) or Ian Hicks (714-742-3412 or [ianhicks@icloud.com](mailto:ianhicks@icloud.com)) with any questions.

## An Epiphany Treat at January 4 Coffee Hours

This year's Epiphany celebration began with a king cake decorating and pizza party for Children's Chapel kids and families. Then on Epiphany Sunday, David St. Amand found the little baby Jesus in his slice of king cake at the 8 a.m. coffee hour, with Susy Jones and Wallace Van Houten finding the baby at the 10 a.m. coffee hour. David, Susy and Wallace all were bestowed with good luck in the New Year! Many thanks to Lisa Nunlist for making all the king cakes and organizing this annual celebration.



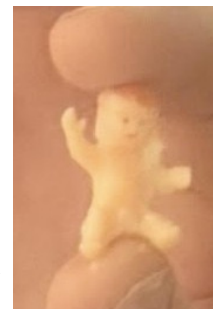
L-R: Kids enjoyed decorating the king cakes (and pizza afterward!) on January 3. Ella, Rachel & Nate Wickham. Sam Raymond & Kennedy Johnson.



L-R: Lucky baby-finders David St. Amand, Susy Jones and Wallace Van Houten.



The adorable baby Jesus figurine.



# Life Together

## Annual Meeting & Potluck on Sunday, February 8, 11:30 a.m.

St. Luke's Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 8, at 11:30 a.m., beginning with a potluck fellowship. We plan to hold this meeting in person, with online participation available. All St. Luke's parishioners are encouraged to attend.



Agenda items include:

- A recap of 2025 activities and events
- Updates on buildings, property, 2026 plans
- Review of 2025 finances and 2026 budget
- Election of new Vestry members and Convention delegates
- Questions, discussion

Copies of the Annual Report will be available in the reception area. It will also be attached to the Friday Memo email. Attendees are asked to bring a brunch or lunch item for the potluck. If you are bringing a hot dish, please cook it at home and we will keep it warm for you.

## Annual Meeting Preview

Below are highlights of a few of the updates that will be included in the Annual Report.

### Facilities

St. Luke's is preparing for several important building projects in 2026 focused on stewardship, accessibility and care for our historic church. Plans include improvements to the courtyard and columbarium to create a more peaceful and inviting space, replacement of the building access ramp (and likely the main stairs) to meet current codes, and the start of exterior siding replacement in coordination with historic requirements. We are also continuing to evaluate a sprinkler fire suppression system and expect to bring the necessary water service into the building during courtyard work. In addition, the lychgate will receive a refresh this summer. Updates will be shared as plans move forward—please keep these projects in your prayers.

### St. Luke's History Committee

The History Committee has been sifting through a plethora of information about our church. Much of this was compiled by Tim Shepperd, Lisa Nunlist and Farley Green. We are organizing by decade and identifying what to include. We have an outline for the first two chapters. Our goal is to create a small pamphlet that highlights St. Luke's, a booklet that is more comprehensive, a comprehensive link on the website, and a coloring page that highlights the architecture.

### Finances

Through parishioners' continued gifts of time, talent and treasure, St. Luke's has continued to share, celebrate and embody Jesus Christ's overflowing, unconditional love in North Idaho. Your faithful financial gifts have allowed your church to remain in good financial standing. St. Luke's ended the 2025 year in a strong financial position. In 2025, our total giving was \$395,960 against total expenditures of \$391,968. The congregation contributed generously to capital improvement projects and Memorial Fund donations. Our long-term endowment funds also increased by \$274,684 due to strong market performance. As we enter budget year 2026, the Vestry has approved a balanced operating budget of \$385,500.



If you are the last person in the building, **PLEASE**  
lock doors, turn lights off, set alarm.



# Life Together

## St. Mary's Altar Guild

We thank everyone who generously donated to St. Mary's Altar Guild during the Christmas season, and we would like to take this opportunity to publish a complete list of all donations. Your gifts allowed us to purchase the beautiful poinsettias used during the Christmas season and will enable us to provide for the Eucharist and other needs during the coming months. Thank you for your generous gifts.



In love and service,

*Debbie Lane & Annette Knapp, Co-Directresses*

Al & Janet Anderson	In memory of our parents
Gayne & Jo Clifford	In memory of Albert & Jane Clifford, John & Audrey Magura, and Mike Magura
Mike & Kate Dolan	In memory of David, Angela & Sarah Francis and Joanne & Bob Dolan
Bob & Deborah Douglas	In memory of Brian Douglas
Kevin & Brooke Dunton	In memory of Gail & Ken Berry
Marty Gustafson	In memory of Effie Kasl and Clara Cazel and in thanksgiving for Donna Kalberg
Jim & Julia Hossack	In memory of our parents
Jean Imperatrice	In memory of Robert Imperatrice and in thanksgiving for my St. Luke's Family
Mary Beth Jorgensen	In memory of Jan Werst and Deacon Bob Runkle
Jill Kalberg	In memory of the departed Haas and Kalberg family members
Jeff & Annette Knapp	In memory of David Knapp and Albert & Marilyn Wasem
Bill & Kara Kral	In memory of Erma Kral and Sarah Tschaekofske
Barbara Lee	In memory of husband, Bob, and son, Mike
Bill & Rita Leinweber	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Gatlin and Mr. & Mrs. William Leinweber
Gwen Letson	In memory of my sister, Peggy Goodwin
Lumarie Lovey	In memory of Anne Salisbury
Pat Lund	In memory of Gloria Lund
Lauren McCroskey	In memory of Bob & Jeri McCroskey
Cary Miller	In memory of Carla & Cheryl and in thanksgiving for my St. Luke's Family and medical personnel
Marilyn Otto	In memory of Dave Otto
Fr. David & Carol Owren	In memory of our parents and brother, Joe
Andrea Partington	
Mary Robinette	In honor of Family Promise
Rev. Holladay Sanderson	In memory of her brother, Hal V. Worth, III
Marc & Nancy Sue Wallace	In thanksgiving for Noelle, Kai, Siena and Teo
John & Barbara Webb	In thanksgiving for my family and friends
Christopher Wigley	In memory of Robert E. Hoffman, Adrienne B. Pizana, and Herbert N. Wigley
Nancy Wright	In memory of David Wright



# Life Together

## Daughters of the King Members Installed

On Sunday, January 4, Fr. David installed members of the Sophia Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King.

"Members of The Order of the Daughters of the King are women and girls between the ages of seven and one hundred and seven who desire a closer walk with the Lord. We are Christian women, both lay and ordained, who are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life, and supported through the companionship of our sisters. We are all at different stages of our Christian journey – some have just begun and some have been on this path for a long time. But no matter where we are on our sacred journeys, our primary goal is the same – to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others."

St. Luke's Sophia Chapter meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Learn more about Daughters of the King at <https://www.doknational.org/>. For more information about St. Luke's Sophia Chapter, contact Dianne Pratt ([dprattcda@gmail.com](mailto:dprattcda@gmail.com)).



## Coffee Hour Hosts Needed



Please consider hosting coffee hour in 2026! There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall with open dates in February and March. Something simple such as cookies and fruit are perfect! Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. A reminder and detailed instructions will be sent to you the week before you are scheduled. Thank you for hosting! Questions? Contact Janet Anderson (602-909-5954).

# Engaging Community

## Reverse Offering

The generosity of St. Luke's was on full display with December's reverse offering. Delivering it all to St. Vincent de Paul required more than one trip. When St. Luke's volunteer Kari Romeo arrived, another truck was there, loaded with food for the pantry. They all worked together to unload the food and restock the empty shelves. It was uplifting to see this generosity and cooperation in helping others in need. That little piece of white paper in the Sunday offering basket is a lifeline to those struggling with basic necessities.



February's offering will go to Rathdrum Food Bank. Please take a slip of paper from the little basket at offering time to see what specific items are most needed for our smaller local food banks. We generally collect non-perishable foods, basic hygiene supplies, laundry detergent, and pet food. Church members deliver the food at the end of the month. Thank you for any support you can give. If you have questions or would like to help with delivery, contact Barbara Webb (208-651-2405).

## Fleece Needed for St. Vincent de Paul Quilt Project



If you have extra fleece fabric you'd like to share, consider donating it to St. Vincent de Paul of North Idaho. Your gift of fabric will go straight into the hands of devoted SVDP volunteer Bev Wilson, who will transform it into warmth, comfort and hope for community members in need.

You can drop off fleece donations at the St. Vincent de Paul HELP Center at 201 E. Harrison Ave. in Coeur d'Alene (the old Coeur d'Alene Library building). For more information, call the HELP Center at 208-664-1453.



# Engaging Community

## Lunch with Clients of NIC's Center for New Directions a Huge Success

On Saturday, January 24, about 70 people, including 22 families from NIC's Center for New Directions (CND) and about 25 St. Luke's members, enjoyed a picnic lunch and played games together. CND assists single parents and displaced homemakers with community resources and exploration of career and educational paths. A great time was had by all and we look forward to future events with CND families.



**North Idaho College**



# Engaging Community

## Suspension of Federal Grant Funding for Episcopal Migration Ministries and Other Refugee Resettlement Organizations



On January 24, 2025, the Trump administration suspended federal grant funding for refugee resettlement programs, including Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM). Since 1988, EMM has resettled more than 100,000 individuals to communities across the United States. In addition to its long-standing work in refugee resettlement ministry,

EMM is The Episcopal Church's convening place for collaboration, education and information-sharing on migration. Learn more about EMM at <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/>.

The following websites provide information about the actions against immigrants and refugees, how to donate to organizations dedicated to refugee resettlement, and where to write your congressional leaders.

Episcopal News Service: <https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2025/01/31/episcopal-migration-ministries-to-end-resettlement-work-lay-off-22-after-trump-halts-refugee-program/>

World Relief — Spokane: <https://worldrelief.org/spokane/>

Thrive International: <https://thriveint.org/>

Church World Service: <https://cwsqglobal.org/take-action/action-alerts/>

Idaho Congressional Delegation: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/congressional-delegation/>

# Engaging Community

## Making a Difference: Refugee Support

St. Luke's members and groups continue to support refugees and the area agencies helping them make a good start in America.

You can give to the two leading organizations in our region directly:

- **Thrive International** empowers refugees and immigrants in the United States to rebuild their lives with dignity and independence. Through transitional housing and personalized support—all under one roof—Thrive helps families become self-sufficient members of their communities. Go the “Get Involved” tab on the website (<https://thriveint.org/>) to learn how you can give or volunteer.
- **World Relief Spokane**. For over 80 years, across 100 countries World Relief has assisted families displaced by violence, poverty and injustice – both in the U.S. and across the world. They work with interconnected solutions and wrap-around care that has true power to create lasting change. Go the “Get Involved” tab on the website (<https://worldrelief.org/spokane/>) to learn how you can make a contribution or volunteer.



You can also **submit a donation to St. Luke's** for us to pass on (put organization name in check memo line). Keep watch, and see how you can help.

## Come and see The St. John's Bible at St. John's Cathedral through Epiphany



As part of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist's 100-year celebration, you can visit the Cathedral to touch and explore a Heritage Edition of the Gospels and Acts, part of the hand-made illuminated English manuscript of the whole Bible commissioned by American Benedictine monks — the first such manuscript commissioned by monks since the invention of the printing press!

The Cathedral, located at in 127 E. 12th Ave. in Spokane, welcomes free public viewing of The Saint John's Bible. Exhibition times are Fridays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. You can also view the Saint John's Bible online! Using Turning the Pages, you can explore every volume of the manuscript at the St. John's Bible website: <https://saintjohnsbible.org/turning-the-pages/>.





**FEBRUARY 2026**

**ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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[office@stlukesca.org](mailto:office@stlukesca.org)  
[www.stlukesca.org](http://www.stlukesca.org)

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**Rector**

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**Deacon**

The Rev. Glenda Empsall  
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**Choir Director**

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**Class of 2026**

Jeff Hennig  
Ian Hicks  
Michelle Johnson  
Andrea Partington

**Class of 2027**

Janet Anderson  
Jean Imperatrice  
Rod Kalberg  
Christopher Wigley

**Class of 2028**

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Bill Kral  
Lauren McCroskey

Dave Phifer  
Ian Hicks  
Michelle Johnson & Rod Kalberg  
Farley Green

Treasurer  
Senior Warden  
Junior Wardens  
Clerk

**Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.– 4 p.m.

**Sunday Service Times**

Holy Eucharist Rite I	8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II & Children's Chapel	10 a.m.

10 a.m. services will also be live-streamed online via the Zoom platform and on Facebook.